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III. Claim Amendments

Claims 1-31 (Cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer to pursue the Claims of Group II)

32. (Currently Amended) An isolated *Babesia canis* associated protein, said protein having a molecular weight of about 15 kD when determined by SDS-gel electrophoresis under reducing conditions and comprising an amino acid sequence that is at least 80% homologous to the amino acid sequence as depicted in SEQ ID NO:2 ~~or an immunogenic fragment of said protein.~~
33. (Original) The *Babesia canis* associated protein of claim 32 wherein the amino acid sequence is at least 85% homologous to the amino acid sequence as depicted in SEQ ID NO: 2, or an immunogenic fragment of said protein.
34. (Original) The *Babesia canis* associated protein of claim 32 wherein the amino acid sequence is at least 90% homologous to the amino acid sequence as depicted in SEQ ID NO: 2, or an immunogenic fragment of said protein.
35. (Original) The *Babesia canis* associated protein of claim 32 wherein the amino acid sequence is at least 95% homologous to the amino acid sequence as depicted in SEQ ID NO: 2, or an immunogenic fragment of said protein.

Claims 36-63 (Cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer to pursue the Invention of Group II)

64. (Currently Amended) A vaccine for combating *Babesia canis* infections, comprising ~~an immunogen selected from the group consisting of a nucleic acid sequence encoding a protein according to Claim 32 and~~ a protein according to Claim 32; and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
65. (Currently Amended) The vaccine of claim ~~64~~ 36 further comprising an adjuvant.
66. (Currently Amended) The vaccine of claim ~~64~~ 36 further comprising an additional antigen obtainable from a virus or microorganism pathogenic to dogs or a nucleic acid sequence encoding said antigen.

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67. (Currently Amended) The vaccine according to claim ~~66~~ 38, wherein said virus or micro-organism pathogenic to dogs is selected from the group of *Ehrlichia canis*, *Babesia gibsoni*, *vogeli*, *rossi*, *Leishmania donovani*-complex, Canine parvovirus, Canine distempervirus, *Leptospira interrogans serovar canicola*, *icterohaemorrhagiae*, *pomona*, *grippotyphosa*, *bratislava*, Canine hepatitisvirus, Canine parainfluenzavirus, rabies virus, *Hepatozoon canis* and *Borrelia burgdorferi*.
68. (Newly presented) The vaccine of Claim 64 wherein the nucleic acid sequence encoding a protein according to Claim 32 is a nucleic acid sequence as depicted in SEQ ID NO: 1.